Board have given indications about placement of the following orders for the year 1995-96 on SAIL/DSP:

1. BG Coaching Wheels .	8000 Nos.
2. Loco Wheels .	6000 Nos.
3. EMU Wheels .	5000 Nos.
4. Wheels . . .	28692 Nos.
5. Axles . . .	2464 Nos.

(Sl. No. 4 & 5 are against the order released for 1994-95).

(c) Loss suffered by Durgapur Steel Plant on account of placement of lower order for Wheels and Axles by the Railways in 1994-95 was Rs. 26 crores. Since the indicative order for 1995-96 is still lower, the losses of DSP are likely to increase unless it is able to find other customers.

Wheel & Axle Procurement order

6656. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is ready to agree with the Railway Ministry on the issue of 'Wheel & Axle' procurement order from D.S.P. depends upon traffic demand;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the Wheel & Axle unit of D.S.P.; and

(c) if no, the steps going to take by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The maior part of requirements of Wheels & Axles is intended for use in production of coaches and wagons. The Railways have stated that due to drop in the production of wagons and conventional coaches during 1994-95; the requirement of wheels and axles have come down substantially.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the investment of Rs. 153 crores that has been made in modernising the Wheel & Axle Plant at DSP specially with a view to cater to the requirement of the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways was requested to assist in maximum utilisation of its capacity and for equitable apportionment of load of wheels and axles between Railway's own unit at Bangalore and DSP.

SAIL has also been advised by the Ministry of Steel to explore possibilities of export especially to neighbouring countries. While SAIL is pursuing this vigorously, there are limitations in exercising the export options as innumerable specifications and grades of Railway products are required in different countries.

Massive expansion programme of TISCO

6657. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) has undertaken a massive expansion programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO) has been expanding its capacity in a phased manner since 1980. The latest phase (Phase .III) of expansion/modernisation involved increase in saleable steel capacity from 2.1 million tonnes to 2.7 million tonnes per annum (mtpa). The centre piece of phase III modernisation programme is the 1 mtpa hot strip mill commissioned in 1993.